

HISTORIC & CONNECTION

A newsletter of the city of Las Vegas Department of Planning. The Historic Preservation Commission is dedicated to saving the city's legacy and heritage.

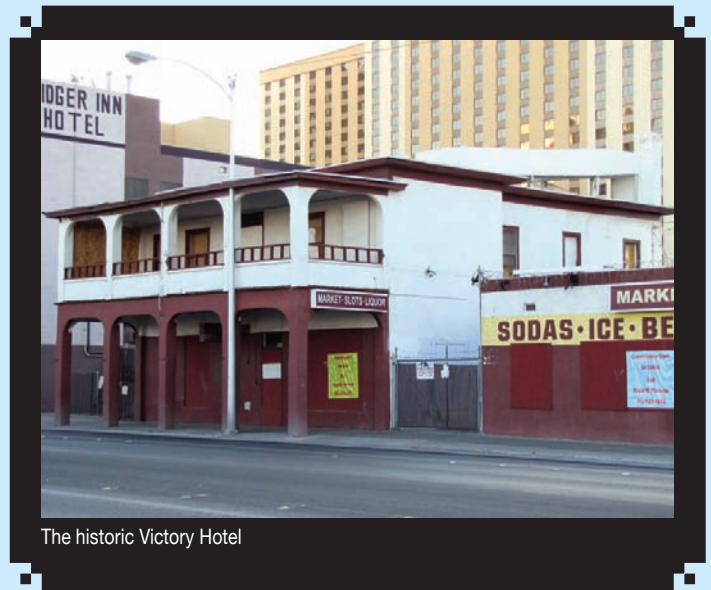
Threatened: Victory Hotel, 307 S. Main St.

by Courtney Mooney, historic preservation officer

The Victory Hotel is one of the oldest buildings in Las Vegas, and is the last local example of a small hotel built to serve patrons as they exited the train depot at Main and Fremont streets. The hotel opened in 1910 as the Lincoln Hotel. Built in a modest Mission Revival style prior to air-conditioning, the hotel featured an arched covered walkway and central hall with doors at each end which allowed air to circulate through the building.

The hotel's history is arguably one of the most colorful in Las Vegas. It was owned and operated by local businessman Dan Hickey who catered to the notoriously rowdy railroad workers and miners. Hickey himself had several scrapes with the law, usually for taking matters into his own hands. In 1913, Hickey shot A. J. Kelly, a railroad switchman and customer of the hotel, over an "unfortunate quarrel." Local legend claims that the Victory was once a brothel with sixteen rooms and a small bar. In 1933 an explosion injured a 22-year-old "entertainer." The cause of the explosion was never determined, causing speculation about a suicide attempt and a scorned lover.

Currently the Victory Hotel property and the property to the south are owned by Oakbrook Realty and Investment Company from Oakbrook, Ill. A sign on the front facade states that the entire block is for sale. The Victory Hotel property consists of the two-story hotel building facing South Main Street, two one-story hotel buildings toward the rear of the lot and a small storage building. A small market facing South Main St. shares the lot. The hotel buildings have been vacant since the property sold in 2008. The property was found to be eligible for the National Register in 1986; however, the property owners objected to the nomination and it was not listed.



The historic Victory Hotel

The Victory Hotel continues to be threatened by development pressures because of its location within the downtown area, so near to large-scale public and private developments such as the Las Vegas City Hall, Symphony Park, Cleveland Clinic Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health and other office, retail and residential complexes. A creative solution is possible, as the lot is large enough to accommodate new development to the rear of the property while maintaining the 1910 hotel. If the property becomes listed on the National Register of Historic Places, historic tax credits and historic preservation grant opportunities may be available. The city of Las Vegas Historic Preservation officer looks forward to helping with any historic preservation endeavors. HC



In This Issue

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- Introducing: Mayor Carolyn G. Goodman
- Biography Corner: Jarmilla McMillan-Arnold

- HP Update
- Upcoming Events



Introducing: Mayor Carolyn G. Goodman

Carolyn G. Goodman was sworn into office as the city's newest mayor on July 6, 2011, by her husband of 49 years and then current, three-term-limited mayor, Oscar B. Goodman. Her colorful swearing in ceremony carried the distinction of being the only known instance of a spouse succeeding a living spouse as mayor in the United States.

Having been born in New York City and having attended college in the Philadelphia area where she met her husband, the new mayor has long had a passion for history and historic building preservation. Unfortunately, Las Vegas tends to implode its history, so the mayor is particularly thrilled with

the efforts to preserve the city's first Federal Courthouse and the Historic Westside School. Both buildings hold a special place in the mayor's heart; her husband won his first court case in that first Federal Courthouse – now being turned into a mob museum – and the mayor worked with many of the alumni of the Historic Westside School when she worked in West Las Vegas for the Department of Labor shortly after arriving in Las Vegas in 1964.

Just as the cities of New York and Philadelphia are teaming with historic buildings, the mayor wants to see the same consideration given to historic buildings in Las Vegas. The preserva-



Mayor Carolyn G. Goodman attends a community meeting to discuss the rehabilitation of the Historic Westside School.

tion of the Fifth Street School School is another example of what is being accomplished to that end.

The mayor plans to stay very involved with the Mob Museum and Historic Westside School as she supports all of the efforts of the Historic Preservation Commission to preserve the city's history. HC

Biography Corner: Historic Preservation Commissioner Jarmilla McMillan-Arnold



HPC Commissioner Jarmilla McMillan-Arnold

Commissioner Jarmilla McMillan-Arnold is one of three new commissioners appointed to the HPC within the last six months. Ms. Arnold was appointed by former city of Las Vegas Mayor Oscar B. Goodman on March 2, 2011 to serve in Category 7 as a member-at-large. This appointment is one of several in which she serves her community.

Ms. Arnold is a native of Detroit, Michigan. Her father moved the family to West Las Vegas in 1955 to the then brand new Berkley Square neighborhood. At the time, West Las Vegas was the only area of town that would allow blacks to live, and Berkley Square was considered very upscale when the majority of homes in West Las Vegas still had outhouses. Later the family moved to the Twin Lakes Estates near Rancho Drive and Washington Avenue.

Ms. Arnold's father was Dr. James B. McMillan, the first black dentist in the state of Nevada. As president of the local chapter of the NAACP, Mr. McMillan was well-known in the community for his leadership in integrating the casinos and hotels on the Strip. He encouraged his family to be involved and "take note of history in the making." As a child, Ms. Arnold was fortunate to be surrounded by community leaders such as Dr. Charles West, the Hoggard family, Woodrow Wilson, Lubertha Johnson, Bob Bailey and Sarann Knight Preddy. She cites their influence and growing up as an African American during the 1950s and 1960s as inspiring her to get an education and become active in her community.

After studying psychology at Tennessee State A&I University, Ms. Arnold returned to Las Vegas. She is a recently retired compliance auditor with the state of Nevada Division of Industrial Relations. But it was her work as a substance abuse counselor for 10 years,

and her memberships in the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department Citizen Review Board (an independent oversight agency that reviews complaints of misconduct against Metro peace officers), the West Las Vegas Advisory Board, Historic Westside School Coordination Team, Southern Nevada Coalition of Concerned Women (an African American women's service club), and treasurer of her homeowner's association, that have been her most rewarding callings. Undoubtedly her years of experience as a government employee is invaluable to each organization, helping them navigate the bureaucracy to accomplish goals and objectives.

Ms. Arnold hopes to pass on her love of history and community service to her two granddaughters. She is busier than ever now, balancing family time with board activities. She definitely keeps the folks at the city on our toes! Please join us in welcoming Ms. Arnold to the Historic Preservation Commission. HC

HP Update:

Historic Westside School Master Plan

The city of Las Vegas hosted the second of three community stakeholder meetings on July 25, 2011, to discuss recommendations for rehabilitation of the historic school, located at 330 W. Washington Ave., and redevelopment of the adjacent Variety Early Learning Center site. The architects, KME, presented two design options for mid-block access to the campus. One option would create a tree-lined pedestrian walkway, and the other would create a one-way vehicular access road. Participants voted for the vehicular access.

The Historic Westside School is listed on the city of Las Vegas Historic Property Register, as well as the state and National Register of Historic Places. The city continues to work with the State Historic Preservation Office on guidelines for rehabilitating the historic buildings.

How you can contribute: If you or someone you know attended the school, please contact the Historic Westside School Alumni Foundation at www.westsideschoolalumnifoundation.org/index-1.html to share your stories. The city is also looking for historical photographs of the school for research and future exhibit purposes. Please contact the city via any of the methods below to share your photographs.

For updates on the progress and dates, times and locations of public meetings, please visit www.lasvegasnevada.gov/westside-school, Facebook at www.facebook.com/HISTORICWESTSIDESCHOOL and Twitter at www.twitter.com/HWSCHOOLLV. You can also e-mail questions to HISTORICWESTSIDESCHOOL@LASVEGASNEVADA.GOV.

2011 Mayor's Urban Design Awards (MUDA)

The city of Las Vegas is accepting nominations for the 2011 MUDAs. The four criteria include: 1) Buildings and Their Environs, 2) Public Places, 3) Public Art, and 4) Historic Preservation and Adaptive Reuse.

Nomination forms are available at the front counter at the Development Services Center located at 333 N. Rancho Drive or online at www.lasvegasnevada.gov/files/2011_MUDA.pdf beginning Oct. 3, 2011. Anyone is invited to nominate projects; however, the project must be located within city limits and be completed by Dec. 31, 2011 to qualify. The awards will be presented at the State of the City address in April 2012 by Mayor Carolyn G. Goodman.

2011 Historic Preservation Fund Grants

The city of Las Vegas has been awarded \$44,000 from the Nevada State Historic Preservation (SHPO) office through the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF). The HPF originates

with the National Park Service and is administered by the SHPO to assist with inventories of historic properties throughout the state. The city of Las Vegas is a Certified Local Government which allows for priority status for HPF grant applications. The city is typically awarded approximately \$30,000-\$40,000 annually.

The 2011 HPF grant will fund the second phase of the Beverly Green neighborhood historic resource survey and inventory. The survey area is generally bounded by East St. Louis Avenue to the north, East Sahara Avenue to the south, Las Vegas Boulevard South to the west, and South Santa Rosa Drive to the east. The survey area contains Ranch style homes constructed in the 1950s.

A survey of this area is part of the recommendation by the city of Las Vegas Historic Preservation Commission to develop a Mid-Century Architecture Historic Context Report for WWII and post-WWII development within the city of Las Vegas.

Historic Preservation Commission Centennial Legacy Grant

The deadline for submitting an application for the HPC Centennial Legacy Grant is Feb. 1, 2012. Grants are limited to \$5,000 and are for historic preservation projects within the city of Las Vegas boundaries. Past grant projects include lectures, educational materials and tours of mid-century architecture. For more information, please visit www.lasvegasnevada.gov/files/HPC_Centennial_Legacy_Grant_Application.pdf.

City of Las Vegas Centennial Grant

Grants are for historic preservation projects within the city of Las Vegas boundaries, and are limited to \$100,000. Past grant projects include historic preservation events, lectures, educational materials, statues of historical figures, and historic property restoration and rehabilitation. For more information, please contact Esther Carter at (702) 229-6672, or ecarter@lasvegasnevada.gov.

Historic Preservation And Archaeology Day On The Cultural Corridor Trail

The city of Las Vegas is working to keep the spirit and tradition of the Cultural History Fair alive. This year, the city of Las Vegas Historic Preservation Commission, Cultural Corridor Coalition, Department of Planning and Office of Cultural Affairs sponsored the Historic Preservation and Archaeology Day on Saturday, May 14, in donated space at Cashman Center. The event included free tours of the Neon Museum Boneyard, the Las Vegas Natural History Museum and the Old Las Vegas Mormon Fort State Historic Park. The event also

featured a lunchtime presentation about the Old Spanish Trail and ice cream sandwiches from Anderson Dairy. Thank you to all of the folks who volunteered time and supplies to make this event a success.

Helldorado Days Parade



Commissioner Jack LeVine and friend ride in style.

HPC commissioners and friends rode in the 77th annual Helldorado Parade in gorgeous classic automobiles provided by the Las Vegas Cadillac and LaSalle Club, and the Sunbelt Auto Museum. Thank you to both of these clubs and the vintage car owners for letting the HPC ride in style.

Historic Preservation Month Proclamation And Awards For Excellence In Historic Preservation

During the ceremonial portion of the May 18, 2011 City Council meeting, former Mayor Oscar B. Goodman and HPC Chairman Robert Stoldal presented the Historic Preservation Month Proclamation and the annual HPC Historic Preservation Month awards. This year's awardees included the city of Las Vegas Department of Operations and Maintenance for the restoration of the barns and corral at Floyd Lamb Park at Tule Springs, Preserve Nevada for their advocacy for and assistance with stabilizing funding in the FY 2011-2013 Nevada State Budget for the State Historic Preservation Office, and the Clark County Museum for the relocation and historic preservation of the Candlelight Wedding Chapel for the Clark County Museum Heritage Street. Congratulations to the awardees!

Floyd Lamb Park At Tule Springs Markers Docent Manual Exhibit

The city of Las Vegas has completed the draft language for new historical markers and exhibits at Floyd Lamb Park at Tule Springs. The project included historical research, data and image gathering for the new markers. The city will begin looking for a qualified company to fabricate the markers and exhibits this fall. The entire project is paid for by a \$200,000 grant from the Las Vegas Centennial Commission.

Neon Museum

Construction on the new Visitors Center and staff offices for the Neon Museum will begin this October 2011, with completion in late spring of 2012. The Visitors Center, adjacent to the Neon Boneyard, will be located in the historic La Concha Motel Lobby. This amazing concrete shell-shaped structure was designed by famed African- (continued on page 4)

Upcoming Events:

Las Vegas News Bureau Presents "A Place in Paradise" At The Boulevard Mall

Aug. 6-Dec. 31, 2011

Boulevard Mall Food Court

Las Vegas News Bureau presents an historical photographic exhibition including 24, large-format images of the Boulevard shopping mall; aerial images of the Historic Paradise Palms neighborhood and its resident celebrities, including Caesars Palace developer Jay Sarno, comedian Rip Taylor, actress and entertainer Debbie Reynolds and Casino De Paris show producer Frederic Apcar; the Tournament of Champions Golf Tournament with Arnold Palmer teeing off in 1967 and many more.

Atomic Vegas: A Celebration Of Midcentury Modern Lifestyle & Design

Oct. 19-23, 2011

Atomic Testing Museum

Dust off your vintage fashions and get ready to travel back to 1950s and 60s Las Vegas! The Architectural & Decorative Arts Society (ADAS) announces *Atomic Vegas: A Celebration of Midcentury Modern Lifestyle & Design*, Oct. 19-23 at various locations throughout the Las Vegas valley. Building on the success of midcentury modern-oriented events in 2009 and 2010, ADAS is expanding this year's program to include a reception and tour of the Atomic Testing



Shoppers enjoy "A Place in Paradise" Exhibit at the Boulevard Mall.

Museum, a midcentury home renovation seminar, a gala dinner, educational panel discussions and an updated bus tour of Las Vegas' midcentury modern architectural treasures.

Guests can purchase tickets for individual events or immerse themselves in all things mid-mod by purchasing a discounted five-day pass. A complete program and tickets are available at www.adas-lv.com. For more information, call (702) 236-9483.

Fourth Biennial Three Corners Conference

Oct. 29, 2011, starting at 9 a.m.

University of Nevada, Las Vegas

This conference is a presentation of scholarly papers that will address the growing scope of archaeology and shifting orientation of archaeological research in the Las Vegas area. The increase in the number and types of archaeological sites that have been discovered has created a need for regional researchers to present and discuss findings to promote the development/refinement of regional theory, methodologies and management goals. For more information, please visit threecornersconference@yahoo.com, or contact Mark C. Slaughter at (702) 293-8143

Nevadaween

Oct. 29, 2011 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Las Vegas Mormon Fort State Historic Park

Come celebrate Nevada's statehood with Mark Twain at the historic Mormon Fort, hosted by Soldiers of the Fort. There will be games, pumpkin decorating, balloons, pioneer activities, mountain men, a soup cook-off and free birthday cake. Admission for 12 and under is free, and \$1 for 13 and up. For more information, please visit <http://parks.nv.gov/olvmf.htm>, or call (702) 486-3511.

Helen Stewart Statue Dedication

Dec. 3, 2011 from noon-1 p.m.

Old Las Vegas Mormon Fort State Historic Park

The Friends of the Fort and the Nevada State Parks are pleased to unveil the statue and preview a documentary of

Helen J. Stewart, the "First Lady of Las Vegas" and former resident of the Old Fort. The statue's sculptor, Benjamin Victor, created a design that would reflect Helen's independence and passion for women's rights. Fittingly, the statue and the event is the result of a collaboration between several local women's organizations including the Nevada Women's History Project, League of Women's Voters, Mesquite Club and Daughters of the American Revolution. The statue and documentary was funded by the Las Vegas Centennial Commission and Nevada Humanities. For more information about the event, please visit <http://parks.nv.gov/olvmf.htm>, or call (702) 486-3511.

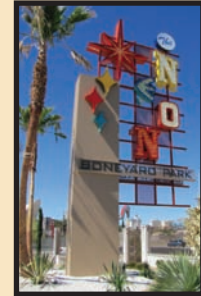
Cowboy Christmas And Charity Event

Dec. 3, 2011 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Floyd Lamb Park at Tule Springs
9200 Tule Springs Road, Las Vegas

Join Councilman Steve Ross for a fun day of family activities and support area charities who bring food, toys and clothes to people in need. HC

HP Update – continued from page 3



Neon Boneyard sign lights the way to the new visitors center, opening in Spring 2012.

American architect Paul Revere Williams and constructed in 1961. Originally located next to the Riviera Hotel and Casino, the building was moved to its current location on the Las Vegas Scenic Byway in 2006 where it remains a Strip landmark.

Currently the museum is open for tours and photo shoots by appointment only, and reservations need to be made at least two weeks in advance because of the high demand and limited availability. The new facility will allow for walk-in traffic, greatly improving this situation. Until construction is complete, staff offices are located at Emergency Arts on Sixth and Fremont Streets. For more information, please visit www.neonmuseum.org, or call (702) 387-6366.

Funding for the project was provided by the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority, the Nevada Commission on Cultural Affairs, the Las Vegas Centennial Commission, the Nevada State Legislature and the Federal Scenic Byways Program. Additional support has been provided by the city of Las Vegas.

The La Concha Motel Lobby is listed on the city of Las Vegas Historic Property Register. HC



The Historic Preservation Commission is an 11-member board made up of community members appointed by the Las Vegas City Council. The board is responsible for hearing and making recommendations regarding the designation of historic landmarks, properties and districts to the city's historic register; overseeing alterations and new construction of designated historic properties and making recommendations to the City Council. Meetings: Fourth Wednesday of each month, 12:15 p.m., Historic Fifth Street School, 401 S. Fourth St., Las Vegas, NV 89101 except in November and December when they are often combined.

Bob Stoldal, chairperson
Dorothy Wright, vice-chairperson
Mary Hausch
Patrick J. Klenk
Robert Bellis
Richard H. Cuppitt
James Veltman
Claytee White
Jarmilla McMillan-Arnold
Jack Levine
Colleen Beck
David Millman, ex-officio

For more information about historic preservation efforts, contact:
Courtney Mooney – Historic Preservation Officer
Department of Planning 333 N. Rancho Drive, 3rd Floor, Las Vegas,
Nevada 89106
phone:(702) 229-5260 • fax:(702) 384-1397
cmooney@lasvegasnevada.gov

Newest Commissioner

On June 15, 2011, the Las Vegas City Council appointed Colleen Beck, Ph.D., to Category 10 (experience in the archaeology profession). Please join the commission in welcoming our newest member. HC